


BERGHAUS, ALBERT

DRAWER 19a

ARTISTS -

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Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Albert Berghaus

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



James Buchanan's White House



Miss Lanes Reception
 Albert Berghaus
 (active 1859-1880)
 Pencil on paper, 1860
 6 7/8 x 10 1/8 in.
 Gift of the White House
 Historical Association



Cabinet

Center Divan

James Buchanan

Feature Article

Before interior photography was perfected, sketches such as this were the basis for newspaper scenes of White House events. This drawing depicts a reception held in the Blue Room in February 1860 after the ceremonies dedicating Clark Mills's statue of George Washington in Washington Circle. Harriet Lane is shown being introduced to a guest by the commissioner of public buildings, James B. Blake. On the reverse of the drawing the artist has noted, "All the ladies have on bonnets, cloaks, shawls & gentlemen divested of overcoats & hats in their hands. The room is oval & everything is blue and gold."

The room had recently been refurbished under the direction of Harriet Lane. New furniture made by Gottlieb Vollmer of Philadelphia is in evidence, as are candelabra bought by James Monroe in France in 1817. The overmantel mirror was purchased by President Franklin Pierce in 1853.

The drawing was executed in preparation for a wood engraving published in the March 10, 1860, issue of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper. Little is known about Albert Berghaus, who worked for Frank Leslie's producing sketches and often reworking other artists' illustrations in wood engravings. After the Civil War, he traveled in the West, and in the late 1870s he collaborated with Frederic Remington to illustrate "Tenting on the Plains," an account, possibly a magazine article, by Mrs. George Custer. The drawing was acquired at the sale of the estate of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis in 1996. She purchased it while she was first lady in 1962.

His sketch of the Lincoln deathbed scene is printed in Leslie's Illustrated, April 29, 1865 p. 89



